

Docket No.: 416-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David W. Perrego) Art Unit 3764
Serial No.: 09/740,169) Examiner: Quang Thanh
Filed: December 19, 2000)
For: THE VERTICAL TRACTION)
ASSEMBLY AND METHOD)

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached is a copy of form PTO/SB/08B that was transmitted to Examiner Thanh by fax on April 30, 2002 listing sixteen (16) U.S. Patents (all Code B1) to be entered into the above-identified application in fulfillment of the information disclosure requirement. In a May 1, 2002 telephone conference, Examiner Thanh said that he had received the faxed list and would place the faxed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant into the record. Applicant's undersigned attorney said that copies of all the referenced patents would be hand-delivered to Art Unit 3764 to avoid a lengthy facsimile transmission. (The U.S. Patent 4,896,659 that was not checked on the faxed listing is now checked as being discussed in the application as originally filed.)

U.S. Patent 4,569,340 discloses a gravity traction vest for effecting vertical traction (Fig. 1); Patent 4,627,423 discloses a portable traction device for a effecting traction in an inclined position (Fig. 7); Patent 4,722,329 discloses a vertical traction device for use in water (Fig. 1); and Patent

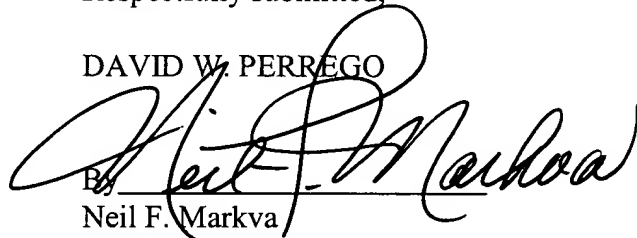
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5,094,228 discloses a "lift mechanism to move the back support laterally toward one side or the other and vertically and in an inclined direction [which] is the resultant of a horizontal and vertical motion" (Abstract). None of these patents, like those discussed in Applicant's discussion of the prior art, teaches a means for applying a traction pressure directly to selected inflamed areas along the spine of a person who is suspended in a vertical, gravity traction suspension position as Applicant claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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